

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Division of Serial No. 09/075,628

Applicant(s) : Takao TAKAHASHI et al.
Filed : Herewith
For : SIGNAL REPRODUCING METHOD & APPARATUS,
SIGNAL RECORDING/REPRODUCING METHOD AND
APPARATUS AND SIGNAL RECORDING MEDIUM
Examiner : A. Neyzari
Group Art Unit : 2651

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March 30, 2001

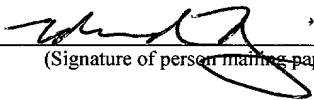
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Date of Deposit: March 30, 2001

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Official Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE TITLE

Please amend the title in the above-identified application to read as follows: —RECORDING METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTINUOUS PLAYBACK OF FRAGMENTED SIGNALS—.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, after the title, insert “This application is a divisional of U.S. application S/N 09/075,628, filed May 11, 1998.”

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1–7.

Please add new claims 8-14 as indicated hereinbelow.

CLAIMS REMAINING IN THIS APPLICATION (AS AMENDED)

8. (new) A data recording method for recording data onto a recording medium to be reproduced by a reproduction device having a buffer memory for temporarily storing the data, comprising the steps of:

receiving a variable bit-rate data stream;

detecting a continuous recordable area of at least a predetermined size on said recording medium; said predetermined size being determined on the basis of the length of time for which stored data can be output from said buffer memory with no additional data being stored to the buffer; and

recording the data in the continuous recordable area.

9. (new) A data recording method, comprising the steps of:
- receiving a variable bit-rate data stream;
 - temporarily storing said variable bit-rate data stream into a buffer memory;
 - detecting a continuous recordable area of at least a predetermined size on said recording medium; said predetermined size being determined on the basis of the length of time for which the variable bit-rate data can be reproduced at a maximum bit-rate without an interruption; and
 - recording the data in the continuous recordable area.
10. (new) A data recording method, comprising the steps of:
- receiving a variable bit-rate data stream;
 - temporarily storing said variable bit-rate data stream into a buffer memory;
 - detecting a continuous recordable area on said recording medium of at least a predetermined size for which the variable bit-rate data can be reproduced without an interruption; and
 - recording the data in the continuous recordable area.
11. (new) A data recording apparatus, comprising:
- receiving means for receiving a variable bit-rate data stream;
 - storing means for temporarily storing said variable bit-rate data stream into a buffer memory;

detecting means for detecting a continuous recordable area of at least a predetermined size on said recording medium; said predetermined size being determined on the basis of the length of time for which the variable bit-rate data can be reproduced at a maximum bit-rate without an interruption; and

recording means for recording the data in the continuous recordable area.

12. (new) A data recording apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a variable bit-rate data stream;

storing means for temporarily storing said variable bit-rate data stream into a buffer memory;

detecting means for detecting a continuous recordable area on said recording medium of at least a predetermined size for which the variable bit-rate data can be reproduced without an interruption; and

recording means for recording the data in the continuous recordable area.

13. (new) A data recording method for recording data onto a recording medium to be reproduced by a reproduction device having a buffer memory for temporarily storing the data, comprising the steps of:

inserting variable bit-rate data smaller than a predetermined size; said predetermined size being determined on the basis of the length of time for which the variable bit-rate data can be reproduced at a maximum bit-rate without an interruption;

combining the inserted data with recorded data adjacent to the inserted data to form a data unit of at least said predetermined size;

recording the data unit in a continuous recordable area on the recording medium.

14. (new) A data recording apparatus for recording data onto a recording medium to be reproduced by a reproduction device having a buffer memory for temporarily storing the data, comprising the steps of:

inserting means for inserting variable bit-rate data smaller than a predetermined size; said predetermined size being determined on the basis of the length of time for which the variable bit-rate data can be reproduced at a maximum bit-rate without an interruption;

combining means for combining the inserted data with recorded data adjacent to the inserted data to form a data unit of at least said predetermined size;

recording means for recording the data unit in a continuous recordable area on the recording medium.


REMARKS

This preliminary amendment makes reference to the parent application and cancels those claims that are being prosecuted in the parent. Entry of the above amendatory matter and early examination on the merits are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 were originally presented in the parent of this divisional application. The present preliminary amendment cancels claims 1-7 and adds new claims 8-14. New claims 8-14 are presented to continue prosecution of claims withdrawn from prosecution in the parent. These claims pertain to nonelected Group II, which corresponds to claims 12-18 in the parent application. (See Final Office Action issued in the parent application on January 2, 2001.) The features defined by these claims are fully disclosed in the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter is presented.

The filing fee for this continuation application has been calculated for the claims remaining after the Preliminary Amendment. The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By: 
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PATENT
450100-4438.2

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Edward Nay

(Typed or printed name of person
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[Signature]

(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF DRAWING CHANGES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attn: Official Draftsman

Sir:

Applicants' representative respectfully request
approval of the following changes to the drawing Figures in the
above-referenced application:

IN THE DRAWINGS:

In Figures 21(1) and 21(2), please add the legend
--PRIOR ART-- as indicated in red on the attached sheet.

REMARKS

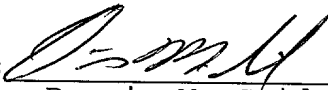
Upon allowance of the application, the above-noted
drawing changes will be incorporated in new formal drawings of
Figures 21(1) and 21(2).

Kindly charge any costs related to these drawings to
Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By:



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FIG. 21(1) PRIOR ART

#3	#4	#1	#2	#5
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FIG. 21(2) PRIOR ART

#13	#8	#3	#16	#4	#15	#5	#9	#11	#7	#14	#2	#6	#10	#12
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